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Security Council

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Report of the Security Council mission to Haiti (11 to 14 March 2009)

I. Introduction

1. In a letter dated 3 February 2009, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had decided to send a mission to Haiti from 11 to 14 March, which would be led by Jorge Urbina of Costa Rica. Following consultations among the members of the Council, it was agreed that the composition of the mission should be as follows (see S/2009/139):

Costa Rica	(Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative, Head of Mission)
Austria	(Thomas Mayr-Harting, Permanent Representative)
Burkina Faso	(Bonaventure Koudougou, Minister Counsellor)
China	(Zhang Yesui, Permanent Representative)
Croatia	(Vice Skračić, Minister Counsellor)
France	(Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Deputy Permanent Representative)
Japan	(Yukio Takasu, Permanent Representative)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	(Esam Ganbour, Counsellor)
Mexico	(Claude Heller, Permanent Representative)
Russian Federation	(Konstantin Dolgov, Deputy Permanent Representative)
Turkey	(Fazli Çorman, Deputy Permanent Representative)
Uganda	(Ruhakana Rugunda, Permanent Representative)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	(Nicholas Williams, First Secretary)

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United States of America	(Susan Rice, Permanent Representative)
Viet Nam	(Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative)

2. The terms of reference of the mission, which were agreed on 20 February 2009 and its programme of work are contained in the annexes to the present report.

3. The mission constituted a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Security Council to the stability of Haiti and an opportunity to call for immediate responses and long-term solutions to the challenges facing Haiti. The challenges include the following areas: security, political dialogue and elections, extension of State authority, rule of law and human rights, humanitarian relief and socio-economic development.

4. The mission left New York on 11 March and returned on 14 March. This was the second visit of the Security Council to Haiti, the previous one having been in 2005. The mission met with the President of Haiti, René García Préval; Prime Minister Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis and a number of her ministers; the coordinator of the presidential commissions and the Chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Constitution; the President of the Senate and the President of the Chamber of Deputies; the President, the Treasurer and the Director-General of the Provisional Electoral Council, the Minister of Justice and Public Security, the Secretaries of State for Public Security and Justice and the Director-General of the Haitian National Police; leaders of the political parties; and representatives of the private sector and civil society. The mission also met with senior officials of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH); the United Nations country team; and members of the Core Group established by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1542 (2004). The mission attended the inauguration of the School for Magistrates, visited the Cité Soleil area of Port-au-Prince, Fort Liberté, the town of Ouanaminthe, on the border with the Dominican Republic, and the city of Gonaïves. The mission also visited various MINUSTAH military and police installations, including the military base at Camp Charlie, the maritime base in Fort Liberté and the Chinese formed police unit in Cité Soleil.

5. The mission expressed its gratitude for the hospitality and openness of the Haitian authorities. It was also grateful to the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Léo Mérorès, for having accompanied the mission and for his contribution to its success. The mission recognized the impeccable organization and close coordination in preparation for the visit carried out by the Secretariat, especially the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Hédi Annabi, MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. The mission also expressed its gratitude to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security for its professionalism in safeguarding the mission.

II. Key issues

Overall security situation

6. The mission found that significant progress has been made on the security front due to the role played by MINUSTAH and the gradual strengthening of the

Haitian National Police. The Security Council found solid progress in establishing a healthy police/population ratio of 1.366 police officers per 1,000 inhabitants. The original number of Haitian National Police serving at the time of the deployment of MINUSTAH, 3,000 members, has now tripled. In addition, recruitment and vetting are being carried out successfully. MINUSTAH has made a decisive contribution, together with the Haitian National Police, to the dismantling of armed gangs responsible for much of the violence in the country. This has led to a significant decline in criminal activities, in particular kidnappings, which had previously undermined public confidence.

7. Several developments have affected the overall security situation, which remains fragile in Haiti. The country has suffered serious setbacks due to the combined effects of the food crisis, the global financial and economic crisis and the devastating impact of the 2008 hurricane season, which has had an adverse effect on the socio-economic situation, undermining the sustainability of security in Haiti. Persistent poverty and youth unemployment in urban areas have created an environment that is vulnerable to civil unrest and, possibly, renewed gang activity. Instances of civil unrest involving violence have increased since December 2008, with 64 demonstrations reported in February 2009, two thirds of which were motivated by socio-economic concerns. In addition, the upcoming elections for the renewal of one third of the Senate, the first round of which is slated for 19 April 2009, could provide a context for tension and potential protest.

8. The mission heard expressions of serious concern about the impact of drug trafficking, which was described as one of the most destabilizing factors facing the country currently, and its corruptive influence in Haiti. In this regard, members of the Council fully agreed with the view expressed by several key Haitian and international interlocutors that if serious steps are not taken to address the problem of drug trafficking, the country's stability will continue to be threatened.

9. The lack of capacity of the Haitian State to control its land and maritime borders, which contributes to the ongoing illegal activity, was found to be a major cause for concern. In this regard, the mission welcomed the start of maritime patrolling by MINUSTAH military and police and the Haitian National Police using the MINUSTAH patrol boats located at Port Salut, Killick and Fort Liberté, as well as joint integrated border patrol operations, drawing on land, air and maritime capabilities. The members of the Council recognized, however, that those activities would need to be complemented through bilateral initiatives and cooperation, particularly from countries in the region, since MINUSTAH has neither the mandate nor the capability to effectively conduct interdiction operations, and Haitian capability to assume these responsibilities has yet to be developed.

10. The mission was of the view that the continued presence of MINUSTAH troops and police remains critical to the maintenance of a secure and stable environment, pending further progress in developing the capacity of Haitian authorities to maintain security and public order without external assistance. Thought and major efforts will need to be given to a progressive transfer of responsibility to the Haitian authorities during the process. The mission also took note of the view expressed by several Haitian and international interlocutors that it would be ill-advised for MINUSTAH to withdraw its forces from Haiti too soon, that is, not until it became clear that Haiti was in a position to deal with the array of security threats facing the country. The importance of the long-term training and

professionalization of the Haitian National Police in order to develop Haiti's ability to provide for its own security was also stressed by Haitian and international interlocutors alike.

11. The acknowledgement that the Haitian National Police alone cannot be expected to fight the illegal arms trade and drug trafficking has prompted calls in some quarters for the Haitian National Police to be supplemented by a security force capable of assuming the full range of tasks currently being conducted by the Haitian National Police supported by MINUSTAH. In that regard, the Presidential Commission to reflect on the strengthening of security is expected to issue its report with recommendations on the issue in the near future.

12. A number of interlocutors expressed concern that weapons continue to circulate in Haiti. In that regard, the mission found that the MINUSTAH community violence reduction programme continues to play a valuable role in providing advice to the national commission on disarmament, dismantlement and reinsertion, focusing on key areas of the country affected by violence. The programme's labour-intensive projects, which aim to discourage participation in gangs and to rehabilitate former gang members, are also critical to improving the overall security environment.

Political dialogue and elections

13. The mission found it encouraging that the political climate had improved considerably following the establishment of an elected Government in 2006. In that regard, several political actors, including leaders of the opposition, acknowledged that during President Préval's term in office the press has enjoyed unprecedented freedom and that members of the opposition have been free to express their opinion without fear of persecution.

14. Despite those positive developments, the stability of Haiti's fledgling democratic institutions continues to be undermined by deep divisions within Haitian society and ongoing political tensions between contending factions. The mission was particularly concerned by the fact that despite signs of a renewed spirit of cooperation prompted by the devastation wrought by last year's storms and hurricanes, relations between the executive branch and the Parliament remain fraught, as demonstrated by continued Parliamentary summons of Government ministers, the inability to reach agreement so far on the budget for the period 2008-2009 and the modest progress to date on implementing the joint legislative agenda adopted in December 2008.

15. The President and magistrates of the Provisional Electoral Council told members of the Council that eight electoral processes will be spread out over the next 36 months. The mission also received information on logistical support provided by MINUSTAH to the Provisional Electoral Council and on the security assistance provided.

16. The onset of elections for the renewal of one third of the Senate, the first round of which is scheduled to take place next 19 April, has created further political uncertainty. The decision taken by the Provisional Electoral Council not to accept any of the candidates put forward by contending factions of Fanmi Lavalas, the party of former President Jean Bertrand Aristide, has raised questions about the

inclusiveness of the upcoming senatorial elections. The mission was encouraged by the commitment of Fanmi Lavalas leaders to use only legal means at their disposal to seek a reversal of the Provisional Electoral Council decision. Some political and civil society representatives stressed the potential for renewed social unrest. The mission emphasized to the Provisional Electoral Council that everything possible must be done to deal with the perception of exclusion that could be felt in sectors of the population because of the non-participation of an important political group. The current situation has further highlighted the need to review the electoral system and strengthen political parties.

17. The mission was informed that several political parties have decided to opt out of the elections due, in part, to their own financial difficulties and a lack of confidence in the ability of the Provisional Electoral Council to organize the elections on time. The Provisional Electoral Council reassured the mission of its commitment to ensure that free, fair and inclusive elections be held on time. However, a number of interlocutors expressed doubts whether other elections scheduled in 2009 for the second third of the Senate, the entire Chamber of Deputies and local authorities, all of which are scheduled to take place in 2009, would be held on time.

18. The mission also found encouraging signs of a genuine willingness on the part of the Government of Haiti, Parliament, political parties, the private sector and civil society to engage in a constructive dialogue on issues of critical importance to the future of the country. The recent establishment by President Préval of commissions on education, competitiveness, information technology, the security forces and constitutional reform, involving a broad range of stakeholders from across the political and social spectrum, constitutes a positive step towards fostering dialogue and consensus. However, it is vital for those commissions to produce concrete results in order to restore public confidence in the political process.

19. The issue of constitutional reform was discussed with a wide range of interlocutors. In that regard, there appears to be a broad recognition among Haiti's leadership and political class that amending certain provisions of the 1987 constitution would be required to improve the functioning of Haiti's democratic institutions. However, the means by which the process of amendment should be pursued continues to be the subject of debate. A number of interlocutors expressed concern that the electoral calendar places an excessive financial burden and political stress on an already fragile system. Haiti's onerous administrative structure, restrictions on dual nationality and the balance of powers between the executive and legislative branches of Government were also identified as key areas requiring reform.

20. The mission was aware of the tight schedule for constitutional amendments and acknowledged the importance of reforming the Constitution to bring about better governance in the country. In that regard, the mission passed on a message to be pondered by Haitian political leaders on the need to achieve the necessary consensuses for the appropriate constitutional reform process. In the meeting with the Chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Constitution, the mission also expressed the need to enhance coordination between the executive branch, Parliament and civil society in order to avoid splits and political paralysis that could hamper the reform process in the country.

21. The Presidential Commission on the Constitution is expected to issue its report in June, with the goal of allowing the legislature time to approve amendments to the Constitution before the end of its session in September. A parliamentary commission on constitutional reform has also been established. If approved, those amendments would need to be ratified by the next legislature and would only enter into effect once a new President takes office in 2011. Some politicians and constitutional experts believe that it will be difficult to keep those deadlines, in particular since the amendment process is contingent upon the fulfilment of the upcoming electoral calendar. It should be noted that the renewal of one third of the Senate in the April and June elections is crucial so that the Senate may vote on constitutional reform, since the Senate is currently operating with a reduced membership that would not allow the two-thirds majority necessary to approve amendments. In that regard, the Senate has not changed its internal rules of procedure to allow a two-thirds majority of the current 18 acting senators.

Extension of State authority

22. The development of legitimate and accountable institutions of Government remains critical to the consolidation of stability in Haiti. Despite MINUSTAH efforts, in collaboration with key partners, to enhance Haitian institutional capacity, both the central Government and local administration continue to suffer from limited capacity to deliver basic services. Health and education are among the areas where the State's capacity to deliver basic services is weakest, as demonstrated by the tragic collapse of the La Promesse Evangelique school in Pétionville near Port-au-Prince, which led to over 100 deaths, many of them children, protracted disputes over payment of salaries to teachers and acrimonious labour actions that have paralysed some hospitals in the capital. The mission noted with concern that the State can provide education to only 10 per cent of registered students, which represents a low percentage of persons of school age, while in addition, the State controls neither the content nor the quality of private education. A number of interlocutors also stressed the need to clarify the legal and practical arrangements for decentralization, which could enhance the ability of local administrations to provide services.

23. President Préval and Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, as well as political leaders, members of the private sector and civil society, emphasized the need for a coordinated effort to enhance governance and administrative capacity at all levels. In that regard, further bilateral efforts will be required to supplement the assistance being provided by MINUSTAH within the framework of a Government plan.

24. The mission was encouraged to learn that following an upgrading of the customs data system, an intensification of road patrolling and the opening of new checkpoints, there has been significant increase in the collection of revenue by customs, which constitutes one third of the State's fiscal resources. The mission was also encouraged by the efforts of the Government of Haiti, with assistance from MINUSTAH, the international financial institutions and donors, to prepare and update a number of key policy texts related to border management, including an integrated border management plan, the Haitian Customs Code and the Law on the National Council of Integrated Border Management.

25. The visit by the mission to Ouanaminthe, on the north-eastern border with the Dominican Republic, provided a stark illustration of the daunting challenges facing the Haitian authorities in the area of border management. The members of the Council noted the permeability of, and free movement in, the border area and noted that little progress has been made on infrastructure. In that regard, the local authorities drew the mission's attention to the fact that despite the support received from MINUSTAH, they lacked the infrastructure and equipment to effectively manage the border with the Dominican Republic and emphasized the need to increase the Haitian National Police presence in the area, which currently stands at only 22 officers, bearing in mind the constraints posed by the lack of infrastructure.

26. The mission visited the MINUSTAH naval base in Fort Liberté established in December 2008 as part of its border management programme. The mission was briefed on the operational plan for maritime daily and night patrols together with MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police. The patrols are conducted with the active participation of one Uruguayan battalion officer and eight crew members, one United Nations police and one Haitian National Police officer, per patrols of two boats at a time. The mission observed that the naval joint team at Fort Liberté also takes part in a weekly coordinated border patrol by land, sea and air. The mission was also informed that the Government of Haiti is working to make operational the Custom Office in Fort Liberté recently rehabilitated by MINUSTAH.

Rule of law and human rights

27. Enhancement of the Haitian National Police capability remains a key prerequisite to enable Haiti to respond to threats to its own stability without external support. All the mission interlocutors recognized that important steps have been taken towards the professionalization of Haitian National Police officers, the enhancement of the Haitian National Police institutional capacity and the development of key infrastructure. The mission was particularly encouraged by the fact that support provided to the Haitian National Police by MINUSTAH in collaboration with United Nations agencies and key bilateral partners, has boosted public confidence in the Haitian National Police, as demonstrated in a recent public opinion poll, which showed that in 2008, 58 per cent of Haitians considered that there had been a positive change in the Haitian National Police. The fact that the nationwide recruitment process for the twenty-second promotion, which was launched in September 2008, has generated more than 30,000 applications is further proof of the growing stature of the Haitian National Police in the eyes of the Haitian population.

28. The mission was also encouraged to find that following major delays in the recruitment of Haitian National Police cadets in 2008, efforts to train 14,000 active duty officers by 2011, as provided for in the Haitian National Police reform plan, appear to be back on target. In that regard, the members of the mission were informed that the twentieth promotion of the basic Haitian National Police training programme, comprising 702 cadets (86 of whom are female), graduated in February 2009, bringing the total number of active Haitian National Police officers to 9,247. The twenty-first promotion, which comprises a further 483 cadets (104 of whom are female), began training on 31 December 2008 and is scheduled to graduate in the second half of 2009. It is essential that the Haitian authorities continue to prioritize

the recruitment process if the targets identified in the Haitian National Police reform plan are to be met within the envisaged time frame.

29. The mission shared the view expressed by several interlocutors that despite the progress made over the past five years, the Haitian National Police still lacks the capacity to address the array of threats to Haiti's stability, including organized crime and drug trafficking, which are among the main threats to Haiti's governance, stability and development. In particular, the Haitian National Police presence along Haiti's land and maritime borders remains minimal, although the mission was informed by the Haitian authorities that plans are in place for the strengthening of the Haitian coast guard.

30. In addition to the valuable support being provided by MINUSTAH and other key partners, the Haitian National Police will require the concerted assistance of actors in the region with the resources and expertise needed to make an impact. In that regard, the establishment of a working group for Latin American coordination and cooperation with the Haitian National Police and the work of the 2x9 Consultative Group, constitute a tangible expression of the continued commitment of Haiti's Latin American partners to the country's long-term stabilization, drawing on their own successful experience in the field of police training and reform. In the light of the politicization that the Haitian National Police has experienced in the past after previous international training efforts, key political actors in Haiti underscored the need for continued and long-term international assistance to the Haitian National Police.

31. The sustainability of Haiti's stability will also depend on the strengthening of the other pillars of the rule-of-law system. The mission found that limited progress has been made towards the achievement of the objectives identified in the national plan for justice reform, including implementation of the three fundamental laws on the independence of the judiciary. In that regard, the inauguration of the School for Magistrates, which was held on 12 March in the presence of the mission, constituted an important step towards the development of a professional and independent judiciary. Nevertheless, the mission noted that further efforts are required to implement the national plan for justice reform, including the establishment of the Superior Council for the Judiciary, which will ultimately play a key role in promoting the professional ethics and performance of the judiciary.

32. The situation within Haiti's prisons, which has received comparatively little attention from bilateral donors, remains a major cause for concern. Extreme overcrowding in inadequate prison facilities is compounded by very high numbers of prisoners in preventive detention. More than 87 per cent of the detainees in the national penitentiary in Port-au-Prince are held in pre-trial detention, as are more than 78 per cent of detainees nationwide. While there has been some progress towards enhancing corrections capacity, drawing on bilateral support, the prison population has continued to expand, and the facilities by the authorities' own estimation are not adapted to democratic norms and to the goal of rehabilitating prisoners. The mission found that a comprehensive approach is required, namely, one that is aimed at improving the functioning of the entire penal chain, including a reduction in the numbers of preventive, pre-trial detentions and an improvement in prison facilities.

33. The Haitian authorities emphasized their commitment to respecting civil and political rights in the country, in particular freedom of expression. The mission

expressed concern at the limitations on economic, social and cultural rights in Haiti, a state of affairs that has been aggravated by the humanitarian situation caused by natural phenomena in 2008, the world food crisis and the deterioration of the international economy.

Humanitarian situation

34. The international response to the series of storms and hurricanes that devastated Haiti in 2008, while laudable, has been insufficient to meet the country's urgent humanitarian needs. The 2008 hurricanes contributed to damages worth 15 per cent of Haiti's gross domestic product (GDP) at a time when the Government is facing a 47 per cent decline in budget support. The $127 million flash appeal for immediate humanitarian assistance has only received about half of the funds requested. Given the imminent start of the rainy season in early April, the mission found that there is an urgent requirement to meet outstanding humanitarian needs.

35. Haiti is exceedingly vulnerable to external shocks, in particular extreme weather conditions during the yearly hurricane season. The level of vulnerability is such that even moderate rainfall can have a major humanitarian impact. Council members were able to see first-hand the aftermath of flooding caused by the 2008 hurricanes in the city of Gonaïves. Large portions of the city, with a population of more than 1.5 million people, were covered in more than 1,800,000 cubic metres of mud. In all, 250,000 persons were affected, including a toll of 466 dead in the floods and 235 missing.

36. Because of the danger of flooding and mudslides due to environmental degradation, watershed management and disaster risk reduction are a priority in Haiti. Council members visited a labour-intensive project in Gonaïves aimed at reducing environmental vulnerability through terracing, the construction of small dikes, reshaping of riverbeds and rehabilitating canals. The project, established by the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, has contributed to the creation of 21,000 temporary jobs and provided 1,260,000 food rations. Such watershed management projects are key to preventing further environmental degradation and humanitarian disasters, while at the same time helping to repair rundown irrigation systems.

37. Food security continues to be a major concern in the country. Three million people are moderately or extremely food insecure, representing nearly a third of the country's population. There are also isolated pockets of chronic malnutrition affecting 210,000 persons throughout the country. The mission learned about the difficult situation facing Haiti's agricultural sector and received information regarding the scope for its improvement. With more than 60 per cent of the population engaged in farming and livestock activities, Haiti is only able to provide 45 per cent of its food needs. Landholdings are currently small and underproductive, primarily due to reliance on low-yielding seed stocks, scant use of fertilizers, inadequate irrigation and low levels of mechanization. In addition, because of the country's deforestation and vulnerability to weather conditions, productive soil often is degraded. The mission encouraged the Haitian authorities to adopt agricultural policies designed to boost production. Additionally, they urged the Government of Haiti to display its commitment to establish goals that can be attained in reasonable time frames in order to contribute to the stability of the

country. With the right choices and policies, agricultural production could be substantially increased on lands already being cultivated and also expanded to new productive lands, thereby helping increase Haiti's food security.

Social and economic development

38. The socio-economic context has deteriorated significantly in the past year, threatening to undermine the gains made in other areas. Haiti is ranked 146th out of 147 countries listed in the Human Development Index. Seventy-eight per cent of the population lives on less than $2 a day, while 54 per cent of the population must survive on less than $1 a day. It was evident to the mission that the current levels of extreme poverty are clearly incompatible with Haiti's long-term stability. Haitian interlocutors emphasized the importance of continuing to work with the international community to implement a strategy for Haiti's reconstruction and development.

39. As President Préval himself pointed out to the mission, impressive strides towards the achievement of macroeconomic stability were made between 2004 and 2007. Inflation was brought down from over 40 per cent to less than 10 per cent. During the same period, Haiti's GDP grew from -3.4 per cent in 2003 to 3.4 per cent in 2007, exceeding population growth for the first time in several years.

40. The combined impact of the global food and fuel crisis, the series of tropical storms and hurricanes and the global economic downturn, however, have gravely undermined the progress achieved in these key areas. According to the post-disaster needs assessment conducted with the assistance of the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations, the 2008 storms and hurricanes resulted in some $900 million worth of damage, the equivalent of 14.6 per cent of Haiti's GDP. Official estimates indicate that in 2008 GDP growth slowed to 1.3 per cent and became negative in per capita terms after three consecutive years of positive growth. The global financial crisis is likely to bring a further deterioration in the living conditions of many Haitians during the coming year by reducing the scale of remittances from abroad, which, at a scale of $1.4 billion yearly, represent a key source of desperately needed support for many families.

41. The mission recognized the urgent need for physical security to be accompanied by social and economic security if Haiti is to remain on the path to lasting stability and development. In this regard, the mission took note of the fact that the efforts of the Government to meet the country's immediate recovery and reconstruction needs are currently hampered by a $125 million financing gap for the current fiscal year, although Haiti is scheduled to receive some $1.1 billion worth of debt relief in June 2009. Noting that there had been a marked reduction in direct budgetary to support Haiti, President Préval expressed the hope that the Government would receive the needed $125 million at the upcoming high-level donor conference to be convened by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., as well as funding for a number of specific infrastructure projects, including the completion of National Highway 1, the road from Nippes to the coast and the road to Port-de-Paix. The donor conference was viewed as a major opportunity for Haiti to obtain additional funds for its recovery and reconstruction.

42. The need for the Government to take the lead in forging a broad national consensus around a focused plan to promote development, job creation, food

security and reverse environmental damage was stressed to the mission repeatedly by Haitian and international interlocutors alike. In this regard, the mission found that there was strong support within the Government, the private sector, the political class and civil society for the report of Paul Collier entitled, "Haiti: from natural catastrophe to economic security", which sets out key elements for a practical agenda for the country's rapid economic transformation, including harnessing the opportunities for rapid job growth in the textile manufacturing industry afforded by the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement II Act (HOPE II Act), which provides Haiti with duty-free access to the United States of America for the next 10 years.

43. Regarding current efforts to promote job creation, the mission was pleased to learn from the Prime Minister that a number of important steps are already being taken by the Government, with the support of key international partners to remove the main obstacles to private investment. These include the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee on land management, the drafting of a law on co-ownership and efforts to identify State-owned land that could be made available for the establishment of export zones. In that regard, during its trip to Ouanaminthe, the mission was able to visit one of the two existing export zones in country, which currently employs some 3,000 workers with plans for further expansion in 2009.

44. The mission was also encouraged by the private sector's apparent willingness to work with the Government and the international community to create jobs. At the same time, several business leaders underscored the urgent need to improve the business climate and attract foreign direct investment, which remains critical to Haiti's long-term economic growth and development. Considerable emphasis was placed by the business community on the need to address Haiti's poor image abroad and portray the country in a more favourable light, given the marked improvement in the overall security situation. In that regard, it was recalled that rates of violent crime were actually worse in other countries in the Caribbean region. The mission was also informed that the Presidential Commission on competitiveness is in the process of developing a national plan on competitiveness as well as a number of specific recommendations to the Government in preparation for the upcoming high-level donor conference.

45. Despite these encouraging signs of an emerging consensus on the urgent need to create jobs through a combination of public and private investment, boost agricultural productivity and address the catastrophic state of Haiti's environment, the mission noted that the Government had yet to produce a focused action plan outlining the country's development priorities in the short, medium and long term. The mission was informed that the Government had begun work on a document for the upcoming donor conference, drawing on the country's poverty reduction strategy paper, the post-disaster needs assessment and the report of Mr. Collier, although further efforts would be required to develop a prioritized blueprint for the country's lasting economic recovery, which could serve as the basis for a renewed partnership between Haiti and the international community.

46. The mission noted that the contribution of the diaspora to Haiti's development, which is contingent on pending reforms to the Constitution to allow dual citizenship, must also be reviewed.

Regional cooperation

47. The mission had the opportunity to meet with members of the Core Group and was able to note the decisive role it continues to play in ensuring close coordination between MINUSTAH and the donor and diplomatic communities to enhance the effectiveness of the international community response.

48. The mission recognized the commitment of Latin American countries to assist Haiti in its stabilization, socio-economic growth and regional integration. It is the first time that the region has become fully involved in peacekeeping in Haiti through its contribution of troops and police, and bilateral and multilateral support. In addition, Latin American countries are increasing their participation in police training, drawing on the successful experiences of the region in this domain.

49. The issue of South-South cooperation was raised repeatedly throughout the mission as an area of increasing interest for Haitian authorities. Major Latin American troop contributors to MINUSTAH were particularly involved in specific development projects, with Argentina providing assistance in the field of agriculture, Brazil in the construction of hydroelectric plants and Chile in supporting the education sector. The mission also was able to visit a new heavy-fuel electric power plant in the city of Gonaïves constructed by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and operated by technicians from Cuba.

50. The mission was also encouraged by the signs of improved cooperation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. During February, President Préval signed a decree reactivating the Haitian delegation to the Joint Haitian-Dominican Republic Border Commission. This body was scheduled to meet at the border on 24 March to discuss its future programme of work.

51. The mission noted that the continued engagement of regional and subregional organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, is important to ensure Haiti's integration into the broader Latin American and Caribbean context and to deepen the engagement of its hemispheric partners.

52. The Haitian authorities stressed the importance of the cooperation received from the countries of other regional groups and the members of the mission emphasized the value of extending it.

III. Observations

Overall security situation

53. Since the deployment of MINUSTAH, there has been an improvement in the overall security situation, as demonstrated by declining crime rates and the public's growing confidence in the Haitian National Police (HNP). However, the gains made on the security front remain fragile due in large part to the poor quality of the living conditions of the majority of the population and underlying political tensions. Physical security must therefore be accompanied by social and economic security if Haiti is to achieve lasting stability. Drug trafficking continues to be a major threat to security. Haiti cannot be left alone to tackle this problem and requires the support of other countries in the region.

Political dialogue and elections

54. Haiti cannot afford another political crisis. The Government and Parliament must cooperate with one another to lay the foundations for Haiti's long-term stability and development. The process of constitutional reform should lead to a proposal that ensures the functioning of institutions and the fostering of social and economic development. At the same time, it is vital that the Government continue to work with political parties, the private sector and civil society to forge a broad consensus on issues of major importance to the country's stability and development. Electoral reform is necessary in order to simplify the electoral system. In turn this would help reduce the financial burden on the Government budget and enhance the country's stability. Every effort should be made to ensure that the electoral process be free, fair and inclusive.

Extension of State authority

55. The control of land and maritime borders in Haiti and the provision of basic services to the population by the Haitian authorities are the two basic aspects for strengthening the extension of State authority. Finding solutions to the common problems of integrated border management and border security, understood broadly as a regional issue, represent a task in which the international community must assist Haiti in solving common problems. Regarding the delivery of basic services, the Government of Haiti is conditioned by its own development; the capacity of a State is fragile when there is not a strong economy present. The Government of Haiti should take full advantage of the international support to build its capacity to deliver the services that its people require.

Rule of law and human rights

56. Progress has been made towards the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, the strengthening of its institutional capacity and the development of infrastructure, with a view to achieving the goals set out in the national Haitian National Police reform plan. The ambitious programme requires the support and cooperation of the international community.

57. The existence of efficient and credible judicial institutions is a prerequisite for strengthening the rule of law in Haiti. There have been some important steps but there are institutional challenges to be tackled. The limited capacity of the judiciary to administer justice quickly has led to a sharp rise in the prison population, which continues to live in overcrowded conditions and whose fundamental rights are being violated. The Government of Haiti must execute the strategic plan for the expansion of the country's penitentiary system and the review of the current situation of prisoners in preventive detention.

Humanitarian situation

58. Haiti is particularly vulnerable when it comes to hurricanes and tropical storms from the Atlantic Ocean. Progress has been made in the area of disaster prevention and risk reduction through ongoing efforts to regulate water basins and the

implementation of labour-intensive projects aimed at reducing vulnerability by terracing, constructing small dikes, reconfiguring watercourses and renovating canals. It continues to be essential that the Haitian authorities work closely with the international community to facilitate the flow of necessary assistance to relief, recovery and longer-term reconstruction and development efforts.

59. Food security is still one of the greatest concerns in the country. The difficulties faced by the farming sector in Haiti were illustrated by figures that indicated the low productivity in the sector, which employs more than 50 per cent of the population. In that regard, the adoption of agricultural policies designed to boost productivity is imperative. Additional funding is required to meet the significant humanitarian needs that still exist in Haiti.

Social and economic development

60. Haiti suffered a number of severe setbacks in 2008. While the country faces daunting challenges, there is every reason to be optimistic that Haiti, with the support of its international partners, can recover from the setbacks of the past year. Haiti urgently requires additional international assistance to meet its immediate humanitarian, early recovery and reconstruction needs. The upcoming high-level donor conference in Washington, D.C., will be critical in that regard.

61. At the same time, the donor conference should be seen as an opportunity to forge a renewed partnership between Haiti and the international community, based on a mutual commitment to create jobs, enhance food security, foster economic development, improve the delivery of basic services and restore the environment. Aid alone will be insufficient to place Haiti on the path to economic security. The Government should therefore continue working with the private sector, political parties and civil society to put in place the legislative and regulatory frameworks required to promote private investment and take advantage of the opportunities for rapid job creation provided by the HOPE II Act and other preferential trade agreements. The international community has a clear stake in Haiti's success and will continue to accompany the process of political, economic and social development. While the international community is willing to play a supporting role, the primary responsibility rests first and foremost with the Haitians themselves.

Regional cooperation

62. The Latin America and Caribbean region plays an important role in helping Haiti insert itself fully within its broader regional context. It should be commended for its commitment to support Haiti on its path towards greater security and development.

United Nations role

63. Given the further progress needed before the Haitian National Police is in a position to fully assume its responsibilities, the continued presence of MINUSTAH currently remains essential. The eventual drawdown of MINUSTAH troops and

police will need to take place gradually to reflect the progressive strengthening of Haitian institutional capacity and the changing circumstances on the ground. It is also important to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian authorities to ensure socio-economic stability and development for the future of the country and to consider the role of the United Nations in this regard. While the support provided by the United Nations remains critical, the long-term engagement of other bilateral and multilateral partners, including regional organizations, private foundations and non-traditional donors, will be required to ensure that Haiti remains on the path to stability and sustainable development.

Annex I

Terms of reference for the Security Council mission to Haiti

The terms of reference are to:

(a) Reaffirm the continued support of the Security Council for the Government and people of Haiti to rebuild their country, consolidate peace and stability and promote recovery and sustainable development, bearing in mind the significant setbacks that occurred in 2008;

(b) Express strong support for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and their efforts to improve stability and governance in Haiti;

(c) Reiterate the importance of immediate, medium- and long-term sustained efforts and appropriate international and regional support to consolidate peace, stability and development in Haiti, while bearing in mind the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and people of Haiti;

(d) Assess the status of implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1840 (2008), and to review the progress made by the Government of Haiti, with the assistance of the international community, in particular MINUSTAH, in addressing the interconnected challenges in the areas of security, including security sector reform; border management; institutional support and governance, including elections and reform processes; rule of law; human rights; and economic and social development;

(e) Urge the Government of Haiti to intensify its efforts to promote an effective and all-inclusive political dialogue aimed at national reconciliation, good governance and sustainable development;

(f) Review and assess the engagement of the Government of Haiti and the cooperation of Member States, including neighbouring and regional States, in coordination with MINUSTAH, to address cross-border illicit trafficking of persons, drugs, arms and other illegal activities;

(g) Review the progress achieved so far and assess the state of planning and implementation of the upcoming electoral processes;

(h) Underscore the importance of mutual commitments made by the international community and Haiti and convey the importance of the upcoming donor conference to be held in April 2009, as well as the need to see that all pledges made are promptly disbursed;

(i) Evaluate and discuss with the Government of Haiti the situation and progress in addressing the overall humanitarian situation in the country, including the food security situation, and its implications for security, socio-economic development and stability;

(j) Review the steps taken to establish a disaster and risk reduction strategy, taking into account the damage to the agricultural and infrastructure sectors arising from the hurricanes and tropical storms that struck Haiti in 2008 and the findings of the post-disaster needs assessment conducted in that regard;

(k) Review and assess the level of cooperation, coordination and mutual support between MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team and consult the Government of Haiti and international partners in that regard, including in the area of socio-economic development and the implementation of the national strategy for growth and poverty reduction paper;

(l) Assess and continue to encourage the implementation of quick-impact projects to complement security and development operations undertaken by the Haitian authorities with the support of MINUSTAH and the country team;

(m) Underline the importance of the contribution of regional organizations and mechanisms in the ongoing process of stabilization, reconstruction and development of Haiti, in particular the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the 2x9 Consultative Group and the working group for Latin American coordination and cooperation with the Haitian National Police;

(n) Reaffirm the crucial importance of advancing towards the consolidation of stability in Haiti, with particular emphasis in the consolidation plan of the Secretary-General, as endorsed by the Security Council;

(o) Draw insights from lessons learned in MINUSTAH, which can inform the consideration by Council members of broader systemic and peacekeeping issues in connection with the Council's ongoing review of peacekeeping operations.

Annex II

Schedule of meetings of the Security Council mission to Haiti

Wednesday, 11 March 2009

1 p.m.	Arrival in Port-au-Prince from New York
1.30 p.m.	Press stake-out
3.30 p.m.	Briefing by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
5 p.m.	Briefing by the United Nations country team
8 p.m.	Reception hosted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Thursday, 12 March 2009

7-8 a.m.	Breakfast with the Chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Constitution and the coordinator of the presidential commissions
9 a.m.	Meeting with President René García Préval
11 a.m.	Inauguration of the School of Magistrates
1 p.m.	Lunch with the leadership of the National Assembly, the Presidents of the commissions on justice and security of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, and the Minister in charge of relations with Parliament
3 p.m.	Meeting with Prime Minister Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis and key ministers
5 p.m.	Meeting with the Core Group
6.45 p.m.	Meeting with the Provisional Electoral Council
8.30 p.m.	Dinner with the rule-of-law cluster: Minister of Justice and Public Security, secretaries of State for justice and public security, Director-General of the Haitian National Police, Director of the Penitentiary Administration

Friday, 13 March 2009

7.15 a.m.	Group 1: departure for Fort Liberté and Ouanaminthe
8 a.m.	Group 2: departure for Gonaïves
1.05 p.m.	Arrival in Port-au-Prince from Fort Liberté and Ouanaminthe
1.30 p.m.	Lunch and military/police briefing at Camp Charlie with the Force Commander, Police Commissioner, chiefs of military contingents and police senior management team

2.30 p.m.	Departure for Cité Soleil
2.50 p.m.	Visit of Cité Soleil
4 p.m.	Group 1: meeting with private sector representatives
	Group 2: meeting with civil society representatives
7 p.m.	Dinner hosted by President René García Préval

Saturday, 14 March 2009

8.30 a.m.	Meeting with political party leaders/parliamentarians
11.30 a.m.	Lunch at the Chinese formed police unit
12.45 p.m.	Press conference
2.10 p.m.	Departure from Port-au-Prince to New York

United Nations S/2009/176

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 April 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 4 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, under the Council's agenda item entitled "Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

I should be grateful if the present letter were to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

09-29173 (E) 060409

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United Nations A/63/805–S/2009/177

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2009
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 17
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the following documents adopted at the conclusion of the Special Conference on Afghanistan, held in Moscow on 27 March 2009 under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): the Declaration of the Conference and the Statement and Plan of Action of the SCO member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime (see annexes I-III).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annexes to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17 of its current session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Igor **Shcherbak**

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Annex I to the letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime

In follow-up to the points of agreement and mutual understanding set forth in the Statement of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, the SCO Member States and Afghanistan agree on the following Plan of Action.

I. Fight against illicit drug trafficking

Using the format of the meeting between heads of anti-drug agencies of the SCO Member States, which is now in the process of establishment, based on the Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors of June 17th, 2004, it is agreed to promote practical interaction in the following areas:

in carrying out comparative analysis of the corresponding legislative frameworks of the Member States, improving legal framework of cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

in inter-agency information exchange;

in conducting joint operations;

in controlling trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

in countering the legalization of income derived from trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

in training of personnel of anti-drug agencies;

in drug abuse prevention activities, including demand reduction measures, as well as in developing and introducing new modes of treatment, social and medical rehabilitation of drug addicts;

in establishing regular contacts and developing effective interaction between the meeting of heads of anti-drug agencies of the SCO Member States and relevant authorities of the Afghan Government.

The SCO Member States will consider establishing a regional anti-drug center and a specialized SCO training center for training of officers of the relevant authorities of the SCO Member States, Observer States and Afghanistan, responsible for taking measures against illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The SCO Member States will take measures to tap the potential of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, to engage Observer States of the Organization as well as Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in anti-drug cooperation, including in the creation of "anti-drug and financial security belts". Particular focus will be placed on such issues as:

improving mechanisms of cooperation between the agencies concerned of the SCO Member States and Afghanistan in fighting against transnational criminal groups, providing logistical and training support to the relevant authorities of the SCO Member States and Afghanistan to contribute to drug control;

advancing collaboration between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization in fighting drugs continues to remain an important priority area of joint activities based on the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the SCO Secretariat and the CSTO Secretariat;

the SCO Member States will continue their efforts to expand the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan with regard to combating illicit drug trafficking and drug cultivation.

the SCO Member States will tighten control over the chemical substances used to produce drugs, and are ready to make necessary efforts to cut off illegal precursor supplies to Afghanistan and seek cooperation in this field with States and international organizations concerned.

2. Fight against terrorism

The SCO Member States and Afghanistan believe that in order to effectively combat terrorism it is necessary to strengthen counter terrorist collaboration for comprehensive measures to jointly respond to terrorist threats. Efforts will be focused on the following areas:

border control;

checking individuals suspected of being involved in terrorist activities;

conducting joint operations to counter terrorist threats;

involving Afghanistan, in a phased manner, in the SCO-wide collaboration in fighting terrorism in the region;

establishing effective mechanisms to prevent and suppress terrorist activities;

making joint efforts to obtain information regarding terrorist organizations threatening the security of SCO Member States and Afghanistan;

setting up an expert consultation mechanism on the basis of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure and Afghan relevant authorities;

exchanging information on terrorist activities and organizations and experience in fighting against them;

exchanging lists of terrorist: suspects between SCO Member States and Afghanistan, on a mutual basis;

providing assistance in apprehension and transfer of terrorists;

tracing and cutting off the sources and channels of funding terrorist organizations;

inviting relevant Afghan bodies to take part in joint law enforcement exercises carried out by the Member States as well as in workshops, courses and other SCO events related to combating terrorism.

3. Fight against organized crime

The SCO Member States, using the format of meetings between heads of ministries of internal affairs and of public security, which is now in the process of establishment, will:

advance cooperation with relevant Afghan authorities to fight illicit trafficking in weapons, munitions and explosives and other forms of transnational organized crime;

improve the exchange of operational information and experience related to combating organized crime;

provide mutual assistance in investigating criminal cases and help collect and transfer evidence;

explore opportunities for strengthening cooperation to combat transnational organized crime, including those carried out on a regular basis, and for exchanging, if necessary, teams of law enforcement officers in order to speed up criminal investigations;

implement, by all available means, various programs of further and advanced training of Afghan law enforcement officers.

* * *

In order to improve the cooperation mechanism and boost its efficiency, the SCO Member States and Afghanistan agreed to consider the issue of raising the representation in the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to the level of directors of departments of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the SCO Member States and Afghanistan and to consider developing a plan of interaction with CSTO Foreign Ministers Council's Working Group on Afghanistan to jointly combat terrorism, drug production and trafficking, organized crime, and, inter alia, to hold joint meetings of both Groups.

* * *

The SCO Member States will further develop their bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Afghanistan, engagement in international efforts to provide assistance in its economic recovery, and

will explore opportunities for implementing joint projects aimed at social and economic rehabilitation of this country.

In this regard, the SCO Member States will consider the proposal of the Republic of Tajikistan to sponsor an international conference of Ministers of Economic Affairs in Dushanbe.

* * *

The SCO Member States will continue exchanging their views on using the existing international cooperation mechanisms related to Afghanistan and re-establishing those that proved to be effective.

Annex II to the letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime

The Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

Supporting the efforts of the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, aimed at ensuring social and economic development, building democratic institutions, strengthening operational capability of the Afghan national army and police and enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement bodies,

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing Afghanistan, including continued terrorist activities and the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, and that both pose a serious threat the stability of Afghanistan, its neighbours and other countries,

While welcoming efforts of the Afghan Government to decrease cultivation of opium, express concern about the continued cultivation and production of narcotics drugs as a source of financing terrorist activities in Afghanistan, the region and abroad,

Supporting the efforts of the Afghan Government and International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF) to improve law enforcement and combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of precursors more effectively,

Noting the significant assistance provided by the SCO Member States to the Afghan Government and their commitment to sustain such support for tackling the challenges in Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of maintaining the leading role of the United Nations in coordinating international assistance in Afghanistan,

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to combat the threats of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime,

Declare the following:

1. Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking

We call upon all States concerned to implement, in the framework of the United Nations activities, and other international and regional organizations, existing international strategies to combat narcotics in Afghanistan and the region, which in particular provide for strict implementation of Resolution 1817 of the UN Security Council and decisions of relevant international fora, as well as for creating and reinforcing the "anti-drug and financial security belts" in the region.

We call for further improvement of the SCO drug control cooperation mechanism as well as the elaboration of plans of practical cooperation between anti-drug agencies of the SCO Member States and other states of the region, including information exchange, precursor control and close interaction between this mechanism and relevant UN agencies, as well as other international and regional organizations involved in combating cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotics.

We stress the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat of narcotics, including through support of programs and projects implemented by the UN, the CSTO, the CIS, the EU, and the OSCE in Afghanistan and Central Asia related to border security and management.

We call for joining the efforts of all States and organizations concerned aimed at creating the "anti-drug and financial security belts" in the region.

We welcome the fact that ISAF in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan joined the fight against drug production and proliferation in Afghanistan and support its wide-ranging participation in multilateral efforts in this area. We consider it important that the UN Security Council takes this into account when discussing the ISAF mandate next time.

We call for wider cooperation between the SCO, CSTO and CIS on the anti-drug and counter-terrorism tracks, and stress the importance of the multilateral preventive operation named Operation Channel carried out under the CSTO auspices, as well as of increasing the number of observer States participating in this operation.

We believe that full operationalization of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre established to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors with the participation of Afghanistan will strengthen control over the illicit production and abuse of and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in Central Asia.

2. Combating International Terrorism

We believe that the list of priorities for the international community in combating terrorism should include the improvement of its international legal framework, in particular early elaboration and adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as the elaboration of regional counter-terrorism legal instruments.

We call for adherence to relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council concerning international terrorism.

We call for stopping the attempts to spread terrorist ideology as well as for strict compliances with UN SC Resolution 1624 (2005), which condemns all acts of terrorism irrespective of their motivation, and call upon Member States to prohibit by law terrorist acts and incitement to commit such acts, as well as to deny safe heaven to those guilty of committing these acts; and we consider it important to advance international, inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue in order to fight terrorist ideology, which would involve the civil society, including religious leaders, mass media, business communities and educational structures.

We reaffirm our intention to continue participating in the activities of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Eurasian Group on combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), in particular with a view to stop the financial flows related to illicit trafficking in drugs and their precursors, and to make it a separate area in the EAG and FATF activities.

The SCO Member States intend to invest more efforts in combating terrorist threat using the capacity of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure to a greater extent, and the practice of joint SCO counter-terrorism exercises, and we invite Observer States and other countries concerned to participate in the collective efforts, including those related to creating the "anti-terrorist security belt", and consider taking part in transiting non-military cargoes needed by ISAF.

The SCO Member States with the assistance of the Afghan Government will advance cooperation in responding to terrorist threats, ensuring security and protection of their citizens and diplomatic missions in Afghanistan.

3. Combating Transnational Organized Crime

We reaffirm our firm commitment to counter the growing illegal trafficking in arms, munitions, explosive and other types of transnational organized crime, which pose a serious threat to the lives and security of our peoples.

We believe that an effective coordination mechanism for the competent authorities to be established within the SCO in the form of meetings between the ministers of interior affairs and public security, as well as fostering and developing links with competent authorities of other States, international and regional agencies will help in combating organized crime.

* * *

We believe that a regular dialogue on joint action against abovementioned threats to be launched within the SCO with participations of other States and international organizations concerned could become an effective supplement to the existing international fora for addressing the challenges of terrorism, narcotics and organized crime in the region.

We express our commitment to enhance cooperation with all relevant States and international and regional organizations, namely UN, EU, CIS, CSTO, OSCE, NATO and CICA on matters of common interest in the spirit of this Statement and the Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime.

Annex III to the letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the special Conference on Afghanistan convened under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(Moscow, 27 March 2009)

The participants in the Conference welcomed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) initiative to organize this forum, expressed their satisfaction with results and noted that the outcome was in line with the efforts of the international community, namely the United Nations, North-Atlantic Treaty Organization, European Union, Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Organization of Islamic Conference and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, other international and regional organizations and individual states to counteract threats of terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crimes. The participants also:

Recognized the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan and the region and underscored the importance of sustained international efforts to achieve a stable, peaceful, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan and stressed that such assistance should be comprehensive under the leadership of Afghanistan and the central role of the UN in coordinating international assistance and based on strict adherence of the UN Charter;

Emphasized the need for sustained international support to strengthen Afghan security institutions to effectively combat the scourge of terrorism and production and trafficking of narcotics;

Acknowledged the important role of the International Security Assistance Force and coalition forces to help the Government of Afghanistan provide security to Afghanistan and, in that regard, welcomed the measures adopted by international forces, in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan to ensure closer coordination of operations with Afghan authorities, which inter alia is of special significance for increasing effectiveness of counteracting illegal production and drug trafficking;

Acknowledged the progress of the Afghan Government in reducing the cultivation of poppy, despite limited resources at its disposal, and stressed the need for enhanced regional and international efforts to combat narcotics effectively and resolutely, including provision of alternative means of livelihood for farmers through development of regional markets and transit arrangements, international support for law enforcement and criminal justice agencies of Afghanistan, elimination of drug-laboratories, strengthening anti-narcotics control to curb the flow of precursors and reducing demand and consumption;

Stressed the importance of concerted and combined efforts in the region to counter terrorism, illicit narcotics and organized crime, in particular coordination and cooperation of Afghanistan and its neighbours;

Were encouraged by growing dialogue between the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan aimed at strengthening of mutual trust, as well as by the Joint Declaration on Directions of Bilateral

Cooperation, signed on January 6, 2009 in Kabul, and at finding effective means to combat the menace of terrorism, including denying sanctuaries and dismantling the extremist and terrorist network and ideological centers;

Expressed conviction that the successful combat against terrorism, production and trafficking of narcotics and organized crime in Afghanistan and the region requires a due combination of enforcement and administrative methods, accompanied by targeted social and economic programs;

Underlined the need for sustained joint efforts to train Afghan experts in the field of countering drug trafficking, customs service and police;

Called for a full operationalization of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) as an important tool in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

Welcomed the initiative of G8 to facilitate development projects aimed at social and economic development in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the context of cooperation with all neighboring States, as well as the enhancement of counter-narcotics' regional dimension by reaching out, at the next G8 meeting on June 26 and 27, 2009 in Trieste, to the interested Countries and relevant Organizations; and in the same vein, commended the Ankara Trilateral Summit Process;

Supported transregional projects, aimed at comprehensive regional development, in particular construction of a united infrastructure network and energy corridor, transportation and transit, with consideration of activities of relevant regional organizations;

Noted that the SCO was one of the appropriate fora for a wide dialogue with participation of partners on the Afghanistan-related issues in the context of joint efforts of the international community and Afghanistan and for practical interaction between Afghanistan and its neighboring states in combating terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime;

Supported the need for close cooperation and coordination among international and regional organizations under UN coordination, in particular through United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in joint response to those threats and challenges, and in this regard welcomed adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1868 on March 23, 2009;

Considered the view contained in the Statement and Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime and expressed the intent to explore the possibility of aiding their implementation.

United Nations S/2009/178

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2009
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 24 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you from His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, concerning paragraph five of Security Council resolution 1859 (2008) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated to Member States and as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdullah Ahmed Mohamed **Al-Murad**
Permanent Representative

09-29353 (E) 090409 090409

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to Security Council resolution 1859 (2008), paragraph 5, which states as follows:

Decides to review resolutions pertaining specifically to Iraq, beginning with the adoption of resolution 661 (1990), and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to report, after consultations with Iraq, on facts relevant to consideration by the Council of actions necessary for Iraq to achieve international standing equal to that which it held prior to the adoption of such resolutions.

From the outset, I should like to make clear to you that Kuwait has always supported and will always support fraternal Iraq in achieving its rightful international standing, which the former Iraqi regime impaired through its attack on and occupation of my country on 2 August 1990. As a result of that attack, Iraq became subject to obligations prescribed in Security Council resolutions that were adopted pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, chapter VII, under the agenda item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait". My country expects those resolutions to be implemented in full.

As you are aware, the two issues of Kuwaiti and third country national prisoners and missing persons and the return of Kuwaiti property are of the greatest humanitarian and social importance to my country and the other countries concerned. Unfortunately, however, no perceptible progress has been made for many years in respect of those files. To date, the fate of only 236 of a total of 605 missing persons has been uncovered. My country therefore considers it essential that the mandate of the High-Level Coordinator, Ambassador Gennady Tarasov, should continue in tandem with the work of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee until the terms of all those mandates have been fulfilled.

While we appreciate the efforts exerted by and the cooperation of the Government of Iraq in attempting to close those files, my country urges the Technical Sub-Committee to increase the number of its meetings and adopt a plan of action aimed at accelerating completion of its agenda.

Furthermore, my country appeals to fraternal Iraq to continue to participate in and be represented at the meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee, and to begin to gather the information that will help to contact witnesses who have knowledge relating to the sites in both Iraq and Kuwait where missing Kuwaiti and third country national persons are buried. The knowledge of such witnesses, Iraqi citizens, may make it possible to determine the fate of those missing persons.

With regard to the restoration of Kuwaiti property and, in particular, the Kuwaiti National Archives, we are hopeful that intensified efforts and sustained action under United Nations auspices will bring the issue to a conclusion. Here I should like to refer to the twenty-seventh report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) (S/2008/761), dated 4 December 2008, in paragraph 27 of which he observed as follows:

In my previous reports I welcomed the continuation of the essentially humanitarian process launched by the provisions of paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) and noted the positive stance taken by the Iraqi authorities. I remain of the same view today. I would like to stress, however, the need to translate statements of goodwill into concrete activities to speed up progress on the ground and, thus, the implementation of the mandate.

With respect to the maintenance of boundary pillars, Security Council resolution 833 (1993), in the eighth preambular paragraph, gave the United Nations that responsibility. In its 20 May 1993 Final Report on the Demarcation of the International Boundary between the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission (S/25811), Section X (c), the Commission states its opinion that the arrangements should remain in force until other technical arrangements are established between Iraq and Kuwait for the purposes of maintaining the surficial representation of their common boundary.

Notwithstanding the obvious desire of fraternal Iraq to close this important file, there has clearly been some delay in translating that desire into reality, given that it is more than three years since the United Nations team visited the border area in February 2006. We are hopeful that maintenance work will be completed within the schedule proposed by the United Nations that was recently approved by both countries.

With respect to the issue of compensation, the State of Kuwait wishes to affirm that it is important that all the relevant Security Council resolutions should be implemented, and that compensation should continue to be paid to all those who suffered as a result of the Iraqi attack against Kuwait, under the aegis of the Compensation Commission and at the rate determined by the relevant resolutions and, in particular, resolution 1483 (2003). Here, we should like to renew commitment to the resolution in which the Compensation Commission called for consultations to be held between Iraq and Kuwait, sponsored by the Commission, in order to discuss the prospects for unpaid claims worth a total of $24 billion.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Mohammad Al-Sabah Al-Salem **Al-Sabah**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations A/63/811–S/2009/179

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 99
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I write this letter to condemn the terrorist bomb attacks that took place in the Republic of Yemen last week. The first attack was committed in Sayoun, Yemen, on 15 March 2009 on a group of tourists from the Republic of Korea. Four nationals of the Republic of Korea lost their lives, and three were injured as a result of this heinous act of terrorism against innocent civilians. I have enclosed for your reference a copy of the statement by the Spokesperson and Deputy Minister for Public Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea regarding this incident (see annex). The next day, the authorities of Yemen confirmed that this incident was a suicide bombing carried out by a teenage bomber.

On 18 March, yet another suicide bomb attack took place, this time on a convoy of vehicles carrying officials of the Republic of Korea and the bereaved families of the victims of the 15 March attack on their way to Sana'a Airport. Fortunately, there were no casualties except for the suicide bomber himself; however, in light of the damage caused to the vehicles attacked, serious harm could have been caused to the lives of the group if the suicide bombing had delivered its intended effects.

I wish to reiterate in the strongest terms the deep shock and anger of the Government and citizens of the Republic of Korea at these inhuman acts of terrorism. The Government of the Republic of Korea is currently cooperating with the Government of Yemen in the course of the relevant investigations. The Government of the Republic of Korea appreciates the efforts of the Government of Yemen in fighting terrorism and will continue to render to the Government of Yemen all cooperation necessary to make certain that those responsible are brought to justice. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Korea requests the international community to support the Government of Yemen financially and technically to further fight terrorism.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will take every possible measure to protect the security of its citizens from the increasing threat of terrorism. The

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international community must stand together and make it absolutely clear that such horrendous acts will not be tolerated or go unpunished. I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99.

(*Signed*) **Park** In-kook
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement dated 17 March 2009 by the Spokesperson and Deputy Minister for Public Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea regarding the terrorist bombing against Korean tourists in Yemen

1. The Government of the Republic of Korea expresses its deep shock and anger at the fact that the attack against tourists from the Republic of Korea that occurred in Sayoun, Yemen, on 15 March 2009 was a terrorist bombing. The Government of the Republic of Korea strongly denounces this heinous act of terrorism.

2. The Government of the Republic of Korea once again extends its sincere condolences to the victims and bereaved families. The Government of the Republic of Korea will cooperate closely with the Government of the Republic of Yemen in investigating and dealing with this act of terror.

3. It is the firm position of the Government of the Republic of Korea that terrorism is an inhuman crime which cannot by justified under any circumstances and that terrorism must be eradicated. In this context, the Republic of Korea has actively participated in the international community's endeavours, in which the United Nations plays a leading role, to prevent and suppress international terrorism.

4. The Government of the Republic of Korea will redouble its efforts to prevent and suppress international terrorism in order to ensure the security of the State and safety of citizens, continuing to cooperate closely with the international community to that end.

United Nations S/2009/180

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2009
English
Original: English and French

Letter dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It has been almost a year since Eritrea breached international law, illegally moved into our territory, and occupied Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island. That led to the serious military clashes that occurred along the frontier on 10 and 11 June 2008, and resulted in deaths, dozens wounded and prisoners taken. Consistent with international humanitarian law, Djibouti collaborated with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Society and provided information relating to Eritrean soldiers in our custody (dead, wounded, prisoners). We have yet to hear anything on this from Eritrea. Our strenuous efforts and offer for the exchange of prisoners have been rejected.

Expressing its serious concern about these incidents, the Security Council, by its presidential statement of 12 June 2008 (PRST/2008/20), "condemns Eritrea's military action" and "calls upon the parties to commit to a ceasefire and urges both parties, in particular Eritrea, to show maximum restraint and withdraw its forces to the status quo ante". My country heeded the Council's call and withdrew its forces to the status quo ante.

In its statement to the press of 25 June 2008, the Council expressed regret that "Eritrea has not answered the calls sent by the 12 June presidential statement"; and members of the Council further reiterated "their call to the parties, in particular Eritrea, to withdraw its forces to the status quo ante".

The Security Council decided on 25 June 2008 to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the region to ascertain the prevailing situation, including a visit to Doumeira, to meet with the regional organizations and United Nations country teams. Unfortunately, the mission found it impossible to engage Eritrea, as its report indicates: "In spite of several discussions and requests in New York and Asmara, the Eritrean authorities refused to issue visas to the mission". Missions from several regional organizations (African Union, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, League of Arab States, Organization of the Islamic Conference, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) that visited Djibouti and the border area were not successful in visiting Eritrea. Eritrea also rejected offers of assistance for a peaceful resolution of the dispute from the European Union and friendly and neighbouring countries. As the report of the fact-finding mission makes abundantly clear, the cooperation and facilitation of my country's authorities were crucial to accomplishing its mandate.

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We have consistently demonstrated our persistent and keen interest in the peaceful resolution of this crisis. We have left no stone unturned in our quest for enduring peace and stability in our region. However, in the absence of an Eritrean demilitarization of the border area and a return to the status quo ante, not much would be achieved in terms of a negotiated political solution (see annex, "Situation in Doumeira").

It was against that backdrop that the Council unanimously adopted its resolution 1862 (2009) on 14 January 2009, demanding Eritrea to implement, within a specific time frame, three key issues. In less than 24 hours, however, Eritrea rejected the resolution with the usual polemical arguments and political rhetoric. The letter of the Secretary-General dated 30 March, addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/163), unambiguously states that Eritrea has not complied with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1862 (2009); and that efforts to engage Eritrea by dispatching a high-level official to Eritrea and the region "have yet to produce results".

Unwittingly perhaps, within a letter of only two-and-a-half pages, Eritrea's repeated denials, rebuffs and refusals are widely quoted. Sadly, however, nothing is mentioned about Eritrea's intolerable pattern of behaviour, its deliberate, dilatory tactics, and its utterly misleading and reckless utterances. Strangely enough, the letter also refers to a statement by Eritrea that implies a parallel of this conflict with that of Ethiopia-Eritrea. Precisely that is what Eritrea wants. Nothing can be further from the truth. In addressing the Council on 23 October 2008, my President had this to say: "I wish also to caution members of the Council to be very careful about the notion that there is a possible connection between this dispute and the Ethiopia/Eritrea conflict. If there is any such connection, it is the fact that Eritrea is the *common factor* in both conflicts; and for that matter, in all the conflicts in the Horn of Africa region. So, it is not only unhelpful but certainly unwise to suggest such a linkage that would only help Eritrea to get entrenched, more and more, in more conflicts in the region, and to pursue its unbridled adventurism".

Two and a half months have elapsed since the adoption of resolution 1862 (2009). Although we were fully aware of Eritrea's rejection of the resolution on day one, the time was allowed to run its full course. The good offices of the Secretary-General have been deployed since summer last year to defuse the tension and bring about a resolution of the dispute. However, Djibouti seems to be the only party to the conflict that has an unfailing interest in the good offices of the Secretary-General. For us this has been a matter of the utmost priority and continues to be so.

Our understanding is that the Secretary-General seeks still more time to work towards the implementation of the Council resolution. Obviously, we are very sceptical due to Eritrea's utter intransigence so far and its inexplicable pattern of behaviour. Eritrea should not be allowed to disregard the decision of the Council with impunity. It has already enjoyed a disproportionate amount of grace period. This must not be open-ended, for the sake of justice and for the sake of regional peace and security.

Finally, I wish to emphasize that the urgent implementation of resolution 1862 (2009) is expected. Also, the Council should be able to make an appropriate decision. We trust the judgement of the Council on any request for further delay. In the meantime, pending a final report by the Secretary-General, Djibouti does not see

the need for any statement, as such an action would tend to compromise the significance and integrity of the resolution.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Roble **Olhaye**

Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Situation in Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island[1]

The Eritrean occupation forces in the region of Doumeira have made some new improvements that are large enough to help one comprehend their intentions to establish permanent military facilities in Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island.

The Eritreans have constructed on the island a barrack consisting of a row of six buildings and a bunker for the protection of soldiers, a camouflage as well as a working space.

A natural pier on the Island has also been altered to suit the docking needs of speed boats equipped with guns of different calibres.

With regard to the promontory of Ras Doumeira, the Eritrean forces have carried out some excavation work of two tracks for the movement of military vehicles and for the delivery of heavy logistics such as armoured vehicles and engine boats for the navy, which has installed a residential complex on this part of the national territory.

NB: Doumeira Island is situated on the Red Sea, overlooking the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The militarization of this key, strategic maritime route does not augur well for peace in the region or for international shipping and investment.

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[1] Latest information on the occupied territories as corroborated by aerial reconnaissance.

United Nations S/2009/181

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2009

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

After consultations among the members of the Security Council, it was agreed to elect the Chairman of the following subsidiary body for the period ending 31 December 2009:

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

Ruhakana Rugunda (Uganda)

09-29460 (E) 070409

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United Nations S/2009/182

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 March 2009

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

After consultations among the members of the Security Council, it was agreed to elect the Chairman of the following committee for the period ending 31 December 2009:

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia

Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Turkey and Uganda will continue to serve as Vice-Chairmen for the said period.

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United Nations A/63/808–S/2009/183

General Assembly
Security Council

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7 April 2009
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of the violations committed by Israel by air, sea and land during the month of March 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during March 2009

Air violations					*Land violations*					
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Sea violations*	*Military acts of aggression*	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*	*Overall total*	*Previous month's violations*
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare shells, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
18	17	—	35	28	—	19	2	21	84	41

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United Nations A/63/809–S/2009/184

General Assembly
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Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 15 to 31 March 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-29553 (E) 090409 130409

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 31 March 2009

Air violations

On 16 March 2009, between 0940 and 0941 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft flew at high altitude over the Ra's al-Naqurah area.

On 17 March 2009:

- Between 0930 and 1100 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa and heading north as far as Shikka. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 0950 and 1030 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Batrun and heading east as far as the Baalbek-Hirmil area. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 18 March 2009:

- Between 0624 and 1433 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, Beirut and the Bekaa before leaving over Kafr Killa;
- Between 1347 and 1353 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Byblos (Jubayl) and heading north. They left over the sea off Tripoli, heading in the direction of Turkey;
- Between 1348 and 1412 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Tyre and heading east. They circled over areas of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 19 March 2009:

- Between 0657 and 1550 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1620 and 1821 hours, and then again between 1920 and 1921 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft flew at high altitude over the Sixth Brigade sector (western sector, south of the Litani).

On 22 March 2009:

- Between 0940 and 1000 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Shikka. They circled over Shikka, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving over the sea off Naqurah;
- Between 0905 and 1625 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Western Bekaa and the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 26 March 2009, between 0945 and 1015 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the Shab'a Farms. They circled between Beirut and the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 29 March 2009, between 1213 and 2310 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled between Riyaq and Baalbek and over the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 30 March 2009:

- Between 0650 and 1910 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled between Beirut and the South and over the Western Bekaa, Dahr al-Baydar, Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving over Naqurah;

- Between 1000 and 1100 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 31 March 2009, sixteen Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace as follows: at 0940 hours, six warplanes entered over Naqurah and proceeded as far as Qulay'at; at 0943 hours, two warplanes entered over Rumaysh and headed north; at 0945 hours, two warplanes entered over the sea off Byblos (Jubayl) and headed east; at 0947 hours, two warplanes entered over the sea off Juniyah and headed east; at 1048 hours, two warplanes entered over the sea off Kafr Killa and headed north as far as Tripoli; and at 1109 hours, two warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre. The warplanes circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Al-Arz and Shikka before leaving as follows: at 1008 hours, six warplanes left over the sea off Naqurah; at 1037 hours, two warplanes left over Naqurah and four others over the sea off Naqurah; at 1100 hours, two warplanes left over the sea off Tripoli, heading towards Turkey; and at 1115 hours, two warplanes left over Alma al-Sha'b.

On that same date, between 0720 and 1955 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South and Beirut before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

Sea violations

On 16 March 2009, at 2130 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for three seconds towards the line of buoys, to a distance of 300 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters. The enemy repeated the exercise for three seconds at 2220 hours, directing the searchlight from the same position towards buoy No. 7, to a distance of 500 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters.

On 18 March 2009:

- At 1935 hours, from its position off Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy fired 12 tracer rounds, six of which fell into Palestinian territorial waters and the other six into Lebanese territorial waters;

- At 2025 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for two seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters, to a distance of 200 metres north of buoy No. 2.

On 22 March 2009:

- At 2100 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for 10 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters, to a distance of 600 metres north of buoy No. 7;
- At 2115 hours, and then again at 2120 hours, an Israeli enemy gunboat directed a searchlight for 10 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters, to a distance of 600 metres north of buoy No. 2.

On 26 March 2009, at 2110 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for four seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters, to a distance of 400 metres north of buoy No. 3.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 15 March 2009, at 1245 hours, on the outskirts of Mays al-Jabal, on the Palestinian-Lebanese border near point BP30, four Israeli civilians used a pump to pump water from inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory towards Lebanese territory. At 1350 hours, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles removed the pump; a Lebanese Army patrol was present on the Lebanese side of the border as it was being removed.

On 17 March 2009, at 0844 hours, on the outskirts of Mays al-Jabal, on the Palestinian-Lebanese border near point BP30, the Israeli enemy used a pump to pump water from inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory towards Lebanese territory. The Israeli enemy removed the pump at 1015 hours, only to reinstall it at 1100 hours. A Lebanese Army patrol equipped with a bulldozer arrived at the location in order to prevent the enemy from pumping water towards Lebanese territory. However, the enemy did not pump any water and removed the pump at 1230 hours.

On 18 March 2009, at 1025 hours, a Lebanese citizen presented himself at the Lebanese Army position in Kafr Killa and stated that an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles had stopped opposite border point BP85 (Fatima Gate), and that its crew had directed curses and insults towards some Lebanese citizens who were at the Wurud rest stop. The enemy patrol then continued on its way.

On 22 March 2009, at 2035 hours, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for 10 seconds from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah towards the Lebanese Army position at Ra's al-Naqurah. The enemy repeated the exercise for a period of six seconds at 2050 hours.

Israeli activities

On 21 March 2009, at 0600 hours, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles stopped opposite the Wazzani resort. Ten persons wearing camouflage alighted and crossed the technical fence, heading towards the resort and assuming combat positions on the river bank. They then proceeded north to a distance of some 15 metres south of the pump, stopping before they had violated the Blue Line. They left at 0835 hours.

On 22 March 2009, at 1920 hours, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for seven seconds from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah towards the Lebanese Army position (Sixth Motorized Brigade) at Ra's al-Naqurah.

On 31 March 2009, at between 1600 and 1700 hours, from its Radar position inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy fired several bursts of light-weapons fire towards the perimeter of that position.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 114 (e)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 3 April 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint statement adopted by the participants of the Fifth General Meeting of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions, which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 9 and 10 February 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 114 (e). I also request that the joint statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council in response to resolutions 1631 (2005) and 1809 (2009), particularly paragraph 17.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Joint statement of the Fifth General Meeting of representatives of the Caribbean Community and the United Nations system

9 and 10 February 2009, New York

1. The Fifth General Meeting of representatives of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associated institutions was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 9 and 10 February 2009. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, delivered an opening address. The Secretary-General of CARICOM, Edwin Carrington, also made an opening statement. The meeting, which enjoyed wide participation from representatives of the CARICOM secretariat and its associated institutions as well as representatives of the United Nations system, was co-chaired by Lolita Applewhaite, Deputy Secretary-General of CARICOM, and B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Political Affairs.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations welcomed the opportunity to deepen cooperation between the United Nations system and CARICOM. He expressed concern at the evidence of the increasing vulnerability of the Caribbean region, which faces crises in food and energy security while dealing with the impact of climate change and global financial turmoil. He also highlighted the pressing security challenges, particularly those posed by increased trafficking in narcotics and small arms in the region. The Secretary-General reiterated the strong commitment of the United Nations to strengthening the partnership with CARICOM and commended the collaborative work being undertaken between United Nations system and CARICOM institutions.

3. The Secretary-General of CARICOM welcomed the General Meeting as an important forum for pursuing cooperation with the United Nations system. He highlighted the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on the small vulnerable States of the Community. He expressed appreciation for the continued commitment of the United Nations system to supporting the development objectives of CARICOM as reflected in the wide range of activities being undertaken by CARICOM institutions and United Nations system partners. He also underscored the need to address the security challenges facing the region. He highlighted the decision of CARICOM to include security as the fourth pillar of the Community, along with economic integration, foreign policy coordination and functional cooperation. He reiterated the call for considering the reopening of a regional office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the Caribbean.

4. The meeting received a report on progress in the implementation of commitments made at the Fourth General Meeting, held in Georgetown, Guyana, in 2007, addressing in particular cooperation in the areas of sustainable development, climate change, disaster management, food security, governance and security and information and communication technologies. The meeting acknowledged ongoing challenges in collecting complete, current information on all United Nations and CARICOM cooperation activities in the region, given the existence of different planning and monitoring frameworks, the absence of a harmonized approach to reporting and the existence of multiple lines of accountability within the United Nations system.

5. The meeting considered a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Strategic Framework for planning and monitoring collaboration between the United Nations system and CARICOM, with a view to ensuring that activities undertaken are aligned with the strategic objectives of the Caribbean region. It would also ensure that United Nations system resources are deployed most efficiently to deliver measurable benefits to the region. It would promote the awareness of achievements, impact, best practices and lessons learned from the collaboration between the United Nations system and CARICOM (inclusive of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)) and its associated institutions. The proposed framework would focus on regional priorities and integrate a results-based approach for the monitoring and evaluation of all activities in the region. The meeting considered a viable structure for the strategic framework.

6. The meeting acknowledged considerable coordination efforts by the United Nations system in the region, particularly emphasizing the role of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Directors' Team as a working mechanism for providing strategic multidisciplinary support and oversight to address pressing issues and for strengthening the partnership with CARICOM. The meeting also noted the coordination and monitoring role played by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with representation at the ministerial level.

7. The meeting recognized the progress made and the work still to be done in the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. This included the harmonization of laws and administrative procedures, the facilitation of movement of skilled workers, the need for greater public awareness and buy-in to the idea of a single market and economy; private sector engagement; the harmonization of the CARICOM integration process with that of the advanced integration initiatives of OECS; the expansion of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy to include Haiti; and the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the free movement of skills and the related treatment of contingent rights, particularly in relation to the movement of persons with dependants.

8. The meeting welcomed advancement in the introduction of the framework for the Single Market and Economy, including financial policy integration, real sector policy integration and institution-building. In this regard, the meeting noted in particular the efforts being made to integrate the financial services sector, the insurance sector and the securities sector as well as to harmonize interest rates and investment and fiscal policies. In respect of real sector development, the meeting heard the challenges of coordinating and integrating policies on agriculture, tourism and transportation and the need for appropriate policies on energy, including renewable energy. Promoting energy efficiency measures was seen to have particular importance both in terms of economic development and environmental protection. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) committed its continued support to CARICOM in this regard. The meeting noted the ongoing efforts to create and strengthen industry associations, regulatory organizations, sectoral development institutions and institutions to encourage pooling of resources in the region.

9. The meeting was apprised of the extremely close interrelationship between terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems and the economies in the Caribbean

region, which imposes significant challenges for the management of the region's environment and economies. It was underscored that a resilient environment is essential to the long-term prosperity and quality of life in the region and effective functioning of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The meeting heard that sustainable development issues are often ignored in donor funding and other support mechanisms. Efforts by CARICOM to develop and implement a common environment and natural resources framework aimed at improving the environmental quality and conditions in the Community were noted. It was recommended that the regional coordinating mechanism established at the subregional headquarters of ECLAC in Trinidad and Tobago to facilitate the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation should become operational in order to complement the policy coordination efforts of the United Nations system in the area of sustainable development.

10. The meeting considered ongoing efforts to protect the Caribbean Sea and promote the sustainable use of fisheries, improved ocean governance and maritime delimitation. The meeting heard a request for assistance on a common fisheries policy; expansion of aquaculture; fisheries information management; research, training and development; and support for resource management for marine species, especially the commercially important queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) species. The need for increased knowledge and understanding of existing multilateral environment agreements that can be used to support sustainable development and conservation of fisheries and marine ecosystems was identified. A further call was made for support to prepare a plan for the implementation of the 2009 Caribbean ministerial declaration on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Caribbean. Concerning food security, the meeting recognized progress made so far towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1 and agreed that urgent action was needed to protect the gains made so far on food security in the Caribbean. The meeting received information on the proposed United Nations comprehensive framework for action on agriculture and agreed with the proposal of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that an inter-institutional and results-based approach be adopted.

11. The meeting took note of the region's agenda for building resilience in response to the impact of climate change and welcomed ongoing initiatives designed to strengthen the region's response to climate change, notably the Caribbean Climate Change Strategy. The meeting acknowledged United Nations and CARICOM collaboration to achieve a common regional position on how to address climate change and adaptation as a priority area in the regional strategic framework.

12. While efforts to strengthen the strategic framework for comprehensive disaster management were recognized, the meeting underscored the need for continued attention to strategies for disaster management and resilience-building in the region. The ongoing support of the United Nations system in respect of institutional support for preparedness, response and recovery, as well as mainstreaming disaster management, was acknowledged.

13. The meeting emphasized the importance of capacity development both for CARICOM member States and regional institutions. In this regard the meeting noted the challenges faced by these States in fulfilling their reporting obligations in respect of the Millennium Development Goals because of capacity constraints, and

welcomed the commitment of regional institutions and the United Nations system to provide necessary support. The meeting also acknowledged the need to provide more technical support to smaller States. The meeting heard a call from OECS for the production of timely United Nations flagship publications which reflect proactive and responsive research and analysis about the specific issues challenging the Caribbean region, in particular those challenges that are peculiar to the smallest countries. UNDP committed itself to supporting CARICOM in defining an integrated capacity development approach towards the improvement of organizational arrangements.

14. The meeting also noted that, in respect of information and communications technology, full advantage had not been taken of the liberalization process in the telecommunications sector within the region. In particular, the meeting recognized that one of the most notable deficiencies was the insufficient use of broadband technology, largely owing to the high cost of this technology. The meeting proposed that information and communications technology should be included as a priority area in the regional strategic framework.

15. The meeting took note of the fact that CARICOM member States are among the most highly indebted countries of the world but their designation as middle-income countries stymies access to concessionary financing and other flows of official development assistance. The meeting therefore welcomed the idea of establishing innovative paths to engage the private sector and acknowledged the importance of developing stronger public-private partnerships and engaging with foundations and multinational corporations.

16. The meeting repeatedly heard of the need for strengthened data collection and statistical analysis to provide standardized, accurate, current information on all the challenges facing the region and to improve evidence-based programme and policy development. The meeting acknowledged the collaboration between CARICOM and the United Nations system in improving capacity for data collection and analysis as a priority area for inclusion in the regional strategic framework. The meeting recognized the need to rationalize methodologies for data collection and analysis and to ensure wide dissemination of information to support evidence-based policymaking and the CARICOM information and communication objectives. It was proposed that a vulnerability index using indicators relevant to the Caribbean region be developed.

17. The meeting noted with concern the continuing negative effect of the global financial and economic crisis on the Caribbean region. The crisis has had an impact on critical economic sectors such as tourism and the financial sector, on remittances and emigration. The World Bank forecast is for foreign direct investment flows to fall to one tenth of 2007 levels. The meeting acknowledged the need for CARICOM — supported by the United Nations system, especially the specialized agencies — to take swift and urgent action to prevent reversal of the gains that have been derived from past economic growth and stability. The meeting noted the importance of further developing and implementing policies that stimulate the growth of the productive sectors. As an immediate action to address falling investment flows, the United Nations Fund for Investment Partnerships expressed its willingness to support a Caribbean Investment Office that would encourage new investment in the region. The meeting acknowledged that the regional strategic framework should address expanded United Nations assistance to CARICOM for

capacity-building to support the progressive implementation of sectoral integration policies in agriculture and fisheries, tourism and especially air and maritime transportation, whose current functioning hinders improvements in productivity and economic growth.

18. The meeting acknowledged that the Millennium Development Goals had received much attention by CARICOM and that, for the most part, CARICOM countries were on track for their achievement. However, the effect of the global financial and economic crisis would no doubt impede further progress towards the development targets unless urgent action was taken by Governments to provide social safety nets for those groups that were most affected by poverty, unemployment and social marginalization. Regarding the regional strategic framework, the meeting proposed that the United Nations system and CARICOM explore the feasibility of establishing new targets for CARICOM countries that would go beyond the existing objectives to include, inter alia, science, research and development; capacity-building; vulnerability analysis; modernization of law enforcement infrastructures and public sector administration; access to efficient and renewable energy; and rolling back the high incidence of non-communicable diseases.

19. The meeting recognized the high percentage of the Caribbean population below the age of 24. The meeting was informed that there is evidence that Caribbean adolescents and youth are confronted with new challenges that need to be addressed to prevent psychological, social and economic vulnerabilities and alienation. Adolescents and young women are especially impacted by gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and reproductive health problems. Urgent, innovative and strategic rights-based interventions would be required to address these problems. Although many countries have youth and sectoral policies in place to address the needs of young people, implementation is lagging most often because of lack of funding. The meeting proposed that CARICOM, in keeping with its role of addressing implementation gaps from a regional perspective, should establish a regional observatory to monitor child, adolescent and youth rights. In addition, the meeting recommended that programmatic interventions to address the needs of young people should focus on four key areas: (a) health, including mental and sexual and reproductive health; (b) education and skills training; (c) employment and income generation, with microcredit inputs; and (d) life skills and citizenship development. The United Nations Population Fund pledged its continued support to CARICOM in the realm of youth. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) underscored the importance of and its commitment to supporting buy-in by youth in the developmental thrust of the region.

20. The meeting also welcomed the first Regional Framework for Action for Children 2008-2015, adopted at the twelfth special meeting of the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development. The framework takes an integrated approach to addressing the rights to survival, development, protection, dignity and participation of the children within the Caribbean Community. It underscores the importance of measures to address the impact of violence on children, to increase retention rates at the secondary and tertiary levels of the educational system and to provide treatment to children living with HIV/AIDS and protection to those who are vulnerable. The meeting was informed that different countries and agencies utilized different definitions of the term "child" especially in relation to laws concerning the minimum age of employment and apprenticeship. There is a need to standardize the

definition across the region; in particular the age range should be the same in every Caribbean country. UNICEF recommended that special emphasis be placed on children who are between the ages of 10 and 14, when the greatest opportunity exists to facilitate a positive transition into adolescence and to facilitate their care and protection from violence, exploitation, HIV/AIDS and the impact of natural disasters.

21. While the meeting welcomed the success achieved thus far in mainstreaming gender in socio-economic programmes, the need for the integration of gender perspectives in policymaking was noted. The meeting took note of the economic vulnerability of female-headed households given the disproportionate burden of care falling on women and their higher levels of unemployment. Gender inequalities persist, in particular in respect of indigenous women's access to education; aspects of health care, including reproductive health; and economic opportunities, including credit. The meeting noted that the current economic situation would likely cause further deterioration in this regard. The need for Governments to provide social support for single-headed households was raised. The meeting was informed that political representation by women was uneven, ranging from zero per cent in one country to a current high of 29 per cent. A concern was expressed about the high rate of violence against women in the region, especially sexual assaults, which are subject to underreporting and largely unresponsive justice systems. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) welcomed the CARICOM proposal to establish a special rapporteur on gender-based violence as consistent with the goals of the current campaign of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on violence against women. UNIFEM indicated its intention to support the initiative.

22. The meeting recognized that the Caribbean has one of the highest net migration rates in the world. The meeting noted that the female migration rate is recorded as the highest in the world and the pattern of migration is complex, including movement by workers, economic migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. In order to address the complexity of the migration phenomena in the region, the meeting considered a number of possible policy actions that could foster the meaningful contribution of migrants in their home and host countries. The meeting agreed that systematic monitoring of migratory trends, including remittances, would be essential and required migration statistics, shared data and information for use in the formulation of appropriate policy responses. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration expressed interest in continuing to work with CARICOM on the issue of migration. UNDP invited contributions from CARICOM to the *Human Development Report 2009*, which would have migration as its theme.

23. The meeting welcomed the establishment of the Caribbean regional strategic framework on HIV/AIDS and recognized its central role in providing a basis for international collaboration. However, the meeting took note of the many challenges that still remain and considered a number of recommendations to address these challenges. These include the establishment of an enabling environment for the reduction of stigmatization and the enhancement of human rights; making better use of legislative frameworks to ease discrimination and facilitate access to care and treatment facilities; building on the achievements of existing institutions; increased attention to prevention opportunities; and the establishment of a technical support facility for response to HIV/AIDS in emergencies.

24. The meeting recognized that the region had the highest rates of criminal violence per capita in the world and noted that sexual violence, human trafficking, drug trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms were also on the increase. CARICOM reiterated that the issue of security remained a primary concern for the region. It was noted that the financial crisis would likely impose a negative impact on the social fabric of societies in the region, resulting in even higher levels of migration, crime and illegal trafficking in drugs and arms. The meeting recognized the cyclical link between increasing rates of violent crime and urban conditions, youth unemployment, income inequity and arms availability. The meeting expressed concern over the severity of the medium-term impact of crime on economic growth and development in the Caribbean region. The meeting recognized the recent establishment of the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and its goal of putting in place effective mechanisms for joint security initiatives and information-sharing. The meeting noted the opportunities for joint work between IMPACS and the United Nations system. The meeting agreed that regional efforts to combat transnational organized crime, including protection of victims of trafficking, should be expanded and included as a priority area in the regional strategic framework. Support for these efforts is anticipated from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and would include establishment of a focal point in the CARICOM secretariat. The Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations also offered to work with CARICOM to mobilize the interest of donors with a view to establishing a focal point for disarmament and non-proliferation within the CARICOM secretariat.

25. The meeting recognized the Caribbean Community's proud record with regard to good governance. CARICOM called for more attention to constitutional change, greater transparency and accountability and greater vigilance in human rights. Institution-building for the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians was proposed as an area to be addressed, as the assembly had remained inactive for several years. The meeting also noted that Caribbean civil society organizations could benefit from capacity-building and that the expertise of the United Nations system in that particular area would be welcomed. The meeting heard that the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society required additional support to achieve legal implementation and enforcement of reporting requirements. The meeting further agreed that United Nations support in that area would be included in the regional strategic framework and that a capacity-building strategy based on an assessment of CARICOM requirements in the area of governance was necessary. The Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations offered support in a number of related areas including strengthening early warning systems, good offices and dispute resolution mechanisms. There was also agreement to support constitutional reform and electoral monitoring and to replicate existing social cohesion programmes at the regional level. Discussions between CARICOM and the Department of Political Affairs concerning voter registration and electoral observer missions would continue.

26. The meeting recognized the mutually reinforcing nature of development, security and human rights as well as efforts made by CARICOM member States aimed at ensuring continuing respect for internationally recognized civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. However, the meeting noted some implementation gaps in meeting legal obligations stemming from the core international human rights treaties to which CARICOM countries are parties. The

meeting was informed that treaty bodies recommended the abolition of the death penalty; accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; amending laws relating to the death penalty in keeping with article 6 of the Covenant; introducing a legal definition of torture, compatible with article 7 of the Covenant and article 1 of the Convention against Torture; and establishment of Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institutions. The meeting heard that more could be done to increase levels of ratification of core international human rights treaties, fulfil reporting obligations and strengthen cooperation with the United Nations human rights machinery, including by extending open invitations to special procedures mandate-holders. The meeting was informed that 12 CARICOM countries would be reviewed by the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism between 2009 and 2011, which could be an opportunity for constructive engagement between the United Nations system and CARICOM.

27. The meeting discussed the proposed regional strategic framework in the context of the priorities identified in the thematic discussions. The meeting noted the number of existing regional frameworks in specialized areas of work and recognized that bilateral programming would continue between United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes and CARICOM. National-level programming would also continue. As such, the meeting agreed that the regional strategic framework would reflect those priority areas identified during the meeting where an integrated regional approach from United Nations system partners could provide added value to the collaboration between the United Nations system and CARICOM.

28. The meeting identified the following areas for attention under the regional strategic framework: integrated sector development strategies in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and transport; specific opportunities for further collaboration on crime and security; further development of information and communications technology to take advantage of liberalization through improvements in access to broadband technology; wider implementation of intellectual property rights; improved access to education and enhancement of the quality of primary, secondary and tertiary education; implementation of policies to protect Caribbean biodiversity; continued collaboration on disaster management and risk reduction; continued collaboration on health, HIV, reproductive health and youth and gender equality; food as well as energy security; an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea; tools and methodologies for monitoring coastal aquifers; support for the formulation of relevant policies to build resilience, particularly for small highly indebted countries, and to address the specificities of OECS; and strategies for encouraging capital investment through a region-wide investment entity. The meeting also agreed that the regional strategic framework should build on modalities in which the United Nations system has a comparative advantage, such as the establishment of public-private partnerships; capacity-building; South-South cooperation; access to research, data and documentation, including lessons learned and best practices; and techniques for public education and advocacy.

29. The meeting acknowledged the regional strategic framework as an enhanced planning and monitoring mechanism and considered options for implementation. The meeting agreed that the regional strategic framework should reflect a three- to five-year perspective, rather than being limited by the two-year intervals of the United Nations-CARICOM General Meetings. The meeting acknowledged the

potential offered by the Regional Directors' Team. The meeting recommended that the Regional Directors' Team should place much greater emphasis on Caribbean-specific issues and that it could be made responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the regional-level activities agreed to in the context of the regional strategic framework. It was agreed that the Department of Political Affairs would complete the draft of the regional strategic framework, including in the document the rich discussion provided by the meeting before sending it to United Nations agencies for comments in preparation for a follow-up meeting with CARICOM.

30. The meeting agreed that the Department of Political Affairs, as focal point for regional organizations, would continue to facilitate dialogue on the draft regional strategic framework while monitoring immediate follow-up actions to ensure that there was no loss of momentum between this General Meeting and the next one.

31. The meeting agreed that the Sixth United Nations-CARICOM General Meeting would be held at CARICOM headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana, in 2011.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the enclosed statement made by the Government of the Republic of Korea as a response to the launch of a long-range rocket conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 5 April 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have them circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) **Park** In-kook
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Government statement on the launch of a long-range rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

5 April 2009

1. It has been confirmed that at 11:30:15 on April 5, 2009, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) launched a long-range rocket at a launching site located in Musudan-ri, North Hamgyong province. The Republic of Korea (ROK) government is closely cooperating with the United States and related countries on fact-finding and information sharing in connection with the launch.

2. The launch is a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and a provocative act, despite any claim made by the DPRK, which jeopardizes the stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

3. Moreover, the ROK government, together with the international community, is deeply disappointed about the excessive expenditure spent on the launch, which could have contributed to alleviating its chronic food shortage.

4. The ROK government and related countries such as the US, Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have continuously warned the DPRK until the last minute to refrain from the launch. The ROK government expresses grave concern that the DPRK has disregarded such warnings and proceeded with the launch.

5. The ROK government is strengthening its preparedness to deal with any possible provocation from the DPRK and, in close consultation with the UN and related countries, is taking appropriate steps in response to the launch.

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 21
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 7 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 6 February 2009 addressed to you (A/63/711-S/2009/81), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 2 February to 28 March 2009, as follows:

On 2 February 2009, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 4 February 2009, two CN-245 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 5 February 2009, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 11 February 2009, two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 12 February 2009, four Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 16 February 2009, two F-4 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 18 February 2009, two C-160 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 19 February 2009, two Cougar military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

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On 20 February 2009, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 24 February 2009, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice.

On 25 February 2009, two C-560 and one B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 27 and 28 February 2009, one C-560 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 1 March 2009, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 2 March 2009, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 4 March 2009, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 5 March 2009, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 6 March 2009, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 11 March 2009, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 13 March 2009, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 15 March 2009, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 17 March 2009, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 18 March 2009, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 19 March 2009, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 20 March 2009, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 25 March 2009, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 28 March 2009, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the aforementioned violations by Turkey and call for their immediate cessation.

These violations blatantly endanger the safety of international civil aviation and contravene international law and air traffic regulations. Furthermore, they put the peace and stability of the region at stake. Such policies and actions provide ample demonstration of the irresponsible behaviour of a country that now serves as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

The Government of Turkey should heed the call of the international community, abide by the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, thus contributing to the creation of the required conditions for the achievement of a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**